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## PROTHONOTARY WARBLERS (PROTONOTARIA CITREA) NESTING AT RIVERSIDE, ILLINOIS.

BY ORPHEUS M. SCHANTZ.

It is a rare pleasure at any time to make a new bird acquaintance, but to find that a supposed occasional spring migration visitor is an "old settler," and that it had nested in your vicinity as far back as 1898, although none of the local published records mentioned it except as a migrant, added greatly to the interest in finding a nest of this beautiful warbler in 1911 at Riverside.

On the morning of July 2nd, the writer and a friend, by the fortunate accident of a leaking canoe, were obliged to land at the home of an acquaintance on the east bank of the Des Plaines river at Riverside.

After getting the necessary "first aid," we were shown around the beautiful grounds with its fine native trees and artistic river frontage. As a final attraction we were invited to inspect a pavilion, the lower story of which served as a boat-house, and to see an unusually located bird's nest.

The pavilion was hung with Chinese lanterns each containing an electric light bulb. In the only lantern having a defective bulb a pair of small birds had built a nest.

The nesting place was so unusual that the owner of the place, although not greatly interested in birds and knowing scarcely any by name, had become very much interested in his tenants.

After the nest was discovered the pavilion was used as before and the birds seemingly were not at all disturbed by the coming and going of visitors.

By standing on a camp chair it was easily possible to look down into the nest and see the little mother on the eggs without disturbing her. Not wishing to frighten the birds a very hurried view was taken, and the writer supposed he had seen only an unusually placed nest of the common Yellow Warbler. You can perhaps imagine his surprise and delight a few minutes later, to see on a nearby tree a pair of Prothonotary Warblers. A second examination of the nest was made to be positive as to the identification. This revealed five beautifully marked eggs, and a nest entirely different from that of the Yellow Warbler, and typical of the Prothonotary.

The mother bird soon returned to the nest, perching on the edge of the lantern before entering, and the ringing song of the male was then heard from a large willow tree across the river.

Within about a week the five eggs were replaced by five very hungry little warblers, and both parents were kept exceedingly busy carrying worms to their family. For some undiscovered reason all the young birds died before the 16th of July. Whether the public location of the nest finally disturbed the old birds so that they did not feed the little ones enough, it is impossible to say.

The location of the nest was not only remarkable for being in the lantern, but for the fact that only a few hundred feet away was the "Q" railroad bridge with its noisy traffic day and night.

Shortly after the discovery of the identity of the occupants of the nest, it was the writer's privilege to meet the lady who made the first record of the Prothonotary Warbler nesting at Riverside, Mrs. P. K. Solger.



The Prothonotary Warbler's nest in a chinese lantern.  
Riverside, Ill. (Photo by O. M. Schantz.)